

The HISTORY of
The Life and Glorious Actions

Of the Mighty
Heracles of Greece.

His encountering and overcoming Serpents, Lions, Monsters, Giants, Tyrants, and powerful Armies. His taking Cities, Towns, Kings, and Kingdoms; together with the unfortunate Manner of his Death.



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THE HISTORY OF

The History of

Hercules, of GREECE.

BOOK THE FIRST.

CH A P. I.

The Birth and Parentage of Hercules.

THE renowned and victorious Hercules, is said to be the son of Jupiter, (whom the antients held for a God) by Alcmena the wife of Amphitricion — Jupiter coming to Thebes, fell in love with Alcmena, and could not rest till he had enjoyed her; but feared the jealousy of her husband and his own wife; however he caused the King of Thebes to go and besiege Thebipoli, under the command of Amphitricion; and then changing himself by his magic art into the shape of her husband, came to the castle, and lay all night in her arms, she thinking it was Amphitricion; he likewise cast all her servants into a deep sleep for three days, putting Ganimedes, his own centinel, at

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the gate, commanding him, if Amphit-
 rion approached by day, he should cast a
 powder he gave him at the same time
 into the air, and all should become dark
 on a sudden, so that he should not find
 his way until he had had his fill of love.
 —At the end of three days Amphit-
 rion came, and Jupiter withdrew, leaving the
 lady in so sound a sleep, that when her
 husband came to-bed to her, she thought
 all that had passed before proceeded from
 the effects of a pleasant dream; and the
 servants imagined they had slept but one
 night.

After this love affair Alcmena grew
 big of twins, and great was the joy of
 her husband; but Juno remembering to
 have heard Jupiter praise the beauty of
 Alcmena, contrived to destroy the birth
 in the womb, by sorcery; but failing in
 the attempt, Alcmena was delivered safely
 of twins, one very fair, and of a manly
 proportion, was called Hercules; the
 other was weak and sickly, and named
 Ypechus: The first held to be the son of
 Jupiter, and the latter of Amphit-
 rion, by

after enjoyments. — There was great rejoicings and feasting at these births.



CHAP. II.

Juno's endeavour to destroy Hercules and of the Strength he had in his Youth.

JUNO, enraged that what she had done took no effect, procured two deadly serpents to be put into the chamber where they were nursed. These soon killed the weak Ypecus; but mounting the cradle of Hercules, he broke his swaddling bands, and catching one in each hand, he grasped them so hard, that he strangled them in an instant; at which the nurses marvelled. — This attempt of Juno's also failing, when Hercules was carried to the Temple of Mars at Athens, she spread it amongst the people, that he could be no other than the son of Jupiter, having his likeness; which coming to the ears of Amphitryon, he grew jealous of his wife, and could not endure the sight of Hercules, but entreated King

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Euristus to take him and bring him up
 out of his flight. Hercules growing up was much admi-
 red for his comely person, largeness of
 limbs, and prodigious strength. He took
 great pleasure in all manner of noble ex-
 ercises; so that at sixteen years of age no
 man could outdo him at wrestling, run-
 ning, shooting, and other sports.

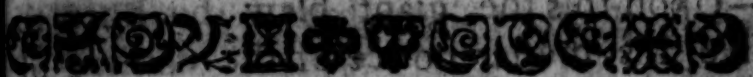


At length Megera, daughter to King
 Creon, who had been a spectator of his
 manly actions, fell desperately in love
 with him, which made him shew his
 valour the more, to the great disgrace of
 those that contended with him.

His fame encreasing every day, the
 people said, he was neither the son of
 Amphitryon nor of Jupiter, but of the

God of Nature, who had endued him with such strength, that no man could stand against him. He instituted the games in honour of the princely pastime called Olympiades, from the Mount Olympius, from which were afterwards dated their writing as amongst us, by the Year of our Lord, &c.





C H A P. III.

Hercules falls in Love with Megrea ;
conquers two Giants, the Island of
Hesperia, the Golden Sheep, and res-
cues the King of Troy's Daughter by
killing a Sea-monster.

Hercules burning with love for the
princess Meagrea, resolved upon a
very dangerous attempt for her sake, the
which was to go to the island of Hesper-
nia, and to bring hence some of the sheep
of that place to Greece, to be kept for
breeding, whose flesh was very delicious,
and of whose wool rich garments were
made. Several Nobles of Greece accompa-
nied him, and they were no sooner landed
thereon, but a Giant, servant to Philotes,
son-in-law to the King, came to them
armed, sternly demanding their business ;
to whom Hercules replied, They came
for sheep, and were resolved to have them.
That may be, said the Giant, if you have
gold enough. — But we, said Hercules,
will have them at the price your master
caught them, and that is by the sword. —

—Upon this the giant blew his horn to give his master notice of the coming of strangers ; but before he arrived Hercules killed the Giant ; which when Philotes came and saw a fierce combat began between Hercules and he, which continued for a long time, when at last Hercules



getting Philotes from his stand, came on him like a lion, giving him several great wounds, and obliged him to beg his life. The combat thus over and the island conquered, Hercules and his companions refreshed themselves, and lading their ships with ewes and lambs, they took Philotes prisoner with them, and returned home to Greece.

Hercules, in his way home was driven into Troy, where understanding a plague

was broke out, and carried off thousands of its subjects daily. The King sent to enquire of the Oracle the cause, and how it might be removed; to which the Oracle returned for answer, That Apollo and Neptune was angry with him for neglecting to build them a new temple with the money he had taken out of the old one; and that the plague should not be stayed unless a virgin above sixteen years old was daily offered up to a sea-monster, which Neptune would send to devour her; unless any valiant Knight in single combat could kill the monster. — This was agreed to, till at last all the virgins but Exoine the King's daughter were devoured, and at the instant she was led to be bound to



the rock, accompanied by her father, sisters, and a multitude of people, weeping

the mighty Hercules came to the spot, and enquiring into the matter, offered himself to be the lady's champion. This rejoiced Leomedon, who promised him if he overcame the monster, to give him whatsoever he desired in the kingdom, but whilst they were thus discoursing, the sea came rowling in mighty waves, and the monster appeared, making towards the virgin; when Hercules taking a huge iron club got in a boat, and began a combat with the monster, and in the end beat out its brains: and dragging it on shore, its very form frightened the Trojans; hereupon Hercules released the lady, leading her to the city, where he and his companions were feasted many days.



C H A P. IV.

Hercules being shut out of Troy, returns to Thebes; overthrows a mighty Pyrate besieges Troy, takes it, and lays it waste the first Time, carrying away Priamus the King's Son Prisoner.

Hercules and his companions having been sumptuously feasted four day

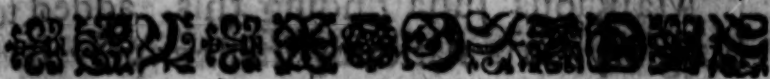
he then demanded of the King as his reward, two milk-white horses that drew his chariot, but the ungrateful King finding the plague stayed, and his daughter delivered, grew unmindful of the obligation he lay under to him; and one day Hercules was hunting, on his return he found the gates of the city shut against him, and demanded enterance, the King from the walls denied it, saying, He went about to move his subjects to rebel; charging him and his Greeks to depart the land. Then Hercules desired the horses but he with great threats refused them; upon which the warrior thus vented his anger, False, and ungrateful king, said he dost thou deny me the reward of my labour? by the Gods I swear, as I by this club have delivered Troy from many evils, with the same I will bring far worse upon it; so that the living Trojans shall say, Those that died of the plague were the happiest; and turning his back upon Troy, he and the Greeks set sail, and in their way was set upon by Egeod, a noted pirate with seven ships, who thought to make a prize of them; but Hercules and his friends soon over-matched them

and made them fly, and soon after safely arrived; and Hercules highly welcomed for his fame sake even by Amphitryon, who was ever after reconciled to him. —

Hercules then having made his heavy complaint, the Grecians promised to assist him, and raising twenty thousand men, embarked towards Troy, and in their way sacked and burnt several towns belonging to the Trojans; and arriving at Troy, in a bloody battle overthrew Leomedon and took his son Priamus prisoner; Hercules pursuing, beat down all before him and seized the gates of the city. Leomedon seeing all lost, fled with Exione and Antigon his daughters, taking with him most of his precious jewels, leaving the Greeks to plunder, who loaded their ships with riches, and then fired the houses, beating down the walls and bulwarks; and then returned back to Greece.



CHAP



C H A P. V.

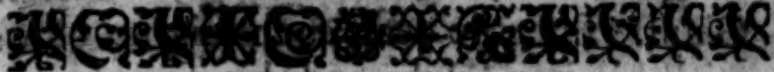
Hercules kills the Lions of Nimen, and sacrifices the Tyrant Bafiris in Egypt.

JUNO still bearing an inveterate hatred to Hercules, perswades him to undertake the combat against the three monsters. and three lions that was in the forest of Nemea. So taking with him his companion Philotes (whom he formerly took prisoner) away to the forest they went where they found the shepherd Melarcus in a tree, who said the lions had devoured his flocks and all his family. At this instant the lions rushed from their dens ; Philotes got into a tree, and Hercules drew his sword and fell'd the foremost, so that he never rose again ; then the other two came on furiously, but he took his iron club, and soon dispatched them both. Then he called Philotes and the herdsman, by whose help he slayed them, and afterwards wore the Skin of the biggest for his coat of armour.

Malicious Juna finding this, added to his glory, in a flattering manner prevailed with him to destroy Busiris King of Egypt, who was so great a tyrant that a famine was upon the land; he sending to the Oracle to know the reason, it replied, They should not shed the blood of the Egyptians, but the blood of strangers. This meant himself, for he was a stranger. Hercules and Philotes coming thither, the tyrant had no sooner notice of it, but he came forth with his bloody guard to seize them as strangers for sacrifice; but Hercules with his club felled him and his guards to the ground; then carrying the Tyrant to the Temple they there sacrificed him, and the famine ceased, and the land grew fruitful; so the people worshipped him as a God, and declared him their King; but he, desirous to return to his own country, constituted a Lieutenant, and was upon his arrival welcomed by all, except Juno, who was much grieved at his happy success,

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C H A P. VI.

Hercules marries Megara, and kills a great Number of Giants that ravished Queen Hippodamia.

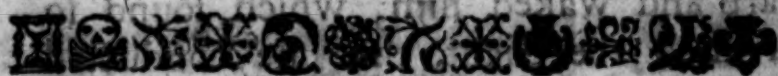
UPon his return the beauty of Megara again beset him, and they were soon after married with splendor. — Pirotheus, one of the princes present, desired the company to be at his wedding at Theſſalonica, with a fair Princess named Hippodamia; to which Hercules, Philotes, Jason, and other Nobles of Greece agreeing, they went thither, where they found a great assembly of Noblemen and Ladies, and amongst others a crew of Centaurs, a giant like people, under their Captain Euricus, who being in liquor, fell together by the ears, and divers were slain. Hercules and others perswaded them to peace, but Euricus rising from the board, with sixty of his men, rushed in and took away the bride by force. Hercules and his companions pursued them, but Hercules came up with them first, and ben-

ding his bow, killed Grinius, a terrible Giant. Then he dealt forth mighty blows with his iron club, and his friends performing wonderfully, the enemy at last fled, and Lincius was taken prisoner; by this means the lady was rescued, to the great joy of her husband; every one praising Hercules for his valour.



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C H A P. VII.

Prosepina, Wife of Orpheus, is ravished by Pluto, and carried into Hell; from whence Hereules fetches her, and brings away the Porter with him.

JUST before Pirothus's Wedding Pluto son to Saturn, arrived on the coast of Sicilly, where he cast his eyes on a beautiful lady, who sat by Queen Cetes her mother, making a garland for Orpheus, who had lately married her. Her beauty enflamed the lustful Pluto, who soon got an opportunity of seizing her, and throwing her on his back ran away with her; Orpheus and others pursuing, were intercepted by a monstrous Giant, and Pluto safely conveyed his prize away to hell.

Queen Ceres telling Orpheus it was Pluto King of Hell that had done him this diskindness, he resolved to attempt by art to recover her; so taking his harp on which he was the most skilfullest artist in the world; and coming to Hell, he descended the stairs, where he found Cerberus the Porter asleep; he played on his

harp and waked him, which sound so ravished the Giant, that he conducted Orpheus to Pluto's Palace, who offered him any thing he would demand, if he would harp so as to make the Lady leave off weeping. This he undertook, and by signs he made to her she laughed and became chearful.—They both soon agreed on an escape, and were got as far as the city gates, when the giant surpris'd them took away the Lady, and Orpheus fled home again.

This attempt failing, Theseus and Pirrotheus went, but were soon slain; then went Hercules, who soon felled the giant to the ground, and entering Pluto's palace, with his club laid him upon the ground, and brought away Prosperina and Cerberus the Porter from that accursed place; and presented Orpheus his wife, to the great joy of Queen Ceres and the whole court.



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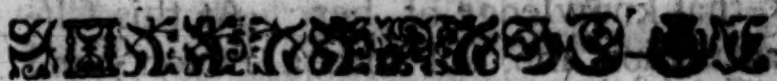
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C H A P. VIII.

During Hercules's Absence the City of Thebes is taken; he retakes it.

Hercules before he went to hell, had sent Linecus the Centaur, prisoner to Thebes by Philotes; but on their way was met by Andromedus a pirate, who were coming to revenge the death of his kinsmen the Centaurs. He soon released Linceus, laid siege to and took Thebes, slew the King, made Lynceus Governor, and then departed home again.

Lynceus soon cast his lustful eyes on Megara, Hercules's wife, and by fair means sought to win her to his will, telling her Hercules was dead in Hell; but she repulsed him with disdain. Soon after Hercules returned, vowing revenge, and meeting Linceus at the gate, gave him such a wound as threw him into a swoon, and the city was soon retaken. Megara came with open arms to receive her victorious Lord; which when Lynceus saw, he cried out, Meddle not with her Hercules, she is my concubine, I have had

carnal knowledge of her. At this false accusation she fell into a swoon; and Hercules giving too much credit to the traitors words, made a vow never to meddle with her more; which soon after caused her death. Lynceus did not escape, for Hercules immediately cut off his head, and cast his body into the street. Then he released Amphitryon, and divers other, who were made prisoners.



C H A P. IX.

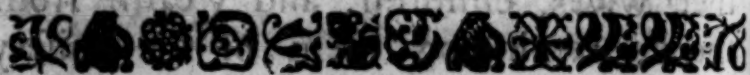
Hercules being denied Provisions at Troy destroys it a second Time; and next conquers King Atlas.

Hercules hearing that Jason was going to Colchos to fetch the Golden Fleece, resolved to go with him, and in their voyage by a storm they were drove on shore by a port leading to Troy; and desiring victuals for their money, which so angered Hercules and his companions, that they vowed if they arrived safe at Greece, they would again level the whole city; So proceeding to Colchos, they soon

destroyed the Bulls that defended the
 Fleece, and brought it home with them;
 and then raising a powerful army, they
 sailed with a fair wind into a port be-
 fore Troy, to the great terror of the city.
 Leomedon headed an army of 30,000
 men, encouraging them to fight manfully
 against the Greeks, who came and took
 their wives, children, and wealth from
 them; reminding them of the misery
 they had formerly sustained from their
 fury. Upon this the Trojans promised to
 defend the city to the last, and a sharp
 and bloody combat ensued; but at last
 Hercules and other Greeks leaping on the
 shore, he with his club laid about him,
 till heaps of dead bodies hemmed him
 round. Leomedon seeing this, fought like
 a man in despair; till Hercules breaking
 in upon the royal standard, laying hold
 of it pulled it to pieces, slew Leomedon
 in defending it; then seizing on the trea-
 sure of the city, they loaded the ship with
 it, and then set it on fire, returning home
 compleat victors.

After this Hercules hearing that King
 Atlas studied Astronomy, and had the best
 library in the world; he resolved to possess

it; and coming to the hall where the King was, and told him he was come to conquer him and his sciences. Atlas immediately armed his troops, and a battle ensued: when Hercules made a stroke at Atlas's head, brought him to the ground and carried him away prisoner, and all his books.



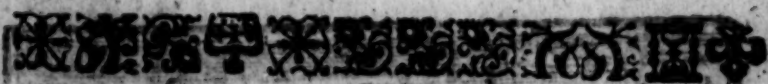
C H A P. X.

Hercules kills Nessus; he destroys the mighty Hydra; also the Tyrant who vomitted Fire and Flame.

Hercules going to visit King Oneus, fell in love with his daughter, whose beauty had attracted King Achelus, who threatened to lay the kingdom waste if she was not given to him in marriage; but Hercules defeated him, and espoused the princess.—Coming with her to a river at which Nessus plyed with a little boat, for taking the princess Dejanira over first, on the other side he attempted to ravish her, which Hercules seeing, drew his bow and shot him. He finding the wound mortal, dipped a piece of his garment in his blood

giving it the princess, telling her, That if Hercules should prove inconstant, to boil that with one of his shirts, and he in the wearing of it would have his affections taken off his new love.

Soon after Hercules went to Lerna, where was a monster with seven heads like serpents, vomiting smoke and fire. Hercules cut off several of the heads, in room of which sprang up seven more ; but at last he laid him dead with his club.—The King of Carthagena, a tyrant vomiting up smoke and fire, who acted very cruelly to his own subjects and neighbouring country ; was after a fierce combat, slain by Hercules, to the great joy of the whole country.



C H A P. XI.

The Princess Dejanira's Jealousy, and Hercules's Death.

Hercules being returned home, it was told Dejanira, that he was in love with the King of Kaledon's daughter ; this raised her Jealousy, and she to prevent his success in the love affair, poi-

soned one of Hercules's shirts, and sent it him, which he immediately putting on and finding the dire effects of it, went into the Temple to sacrifice; and there laid his body down in the fire and expired; that it should not be said a woman overcame him. Dejanira hearing of this, with a dagger stabbed herself to the heart.

Hercules, after his death was by the Greeks worshipped as a God, and had a Temple dedicated to his honour, and a star to this day is called by his name.

F I N I S.



